

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the final Office Action dated September 3, 2008, and is submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. According to the Advisory Action mailed November 7, 2008, applicants' Amendment After Final dated October 28, 2008, was not entered into the application file. Accordingly, the amendments presented herewith are made relative to the claims as they stood at the time of the final Office Action.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 18, and 19. Nevertheless, applicants have amended the claims in an effort to present the claims in a form that is clearer and easier to understand. Applicants submit that the claims remain in allowable condition.

Claims 22-24 have been added. As a result of this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 9-24 are now pending in the application.

Claims 14-17 and 21 Meet the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the final Office Action, Claims 15-17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 14 recited the element "the several virtual lines," and Claim 15 recited the element "the terminating terminal." The Office Action asserted there was insufficient antecedent basis for these elements.

Applicants note that Claim 11, from which Claim 14 ultimately depends, recites "several virtual lines constituted by connections in multiplexed or non-multiplexed mode." Claim 14 has been amended to recite "the several virtual lines constituted by the connections in multiplexed or non-multiplexed mode," thus clarifying the antecedent basis found in Claim 11.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite "a terminating terminal."

As a result, Claims 14 and 15, as amended, and Claims 16 and 17, which depend from Claim 15, meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,134,246, issued to Cai et al. While applicants disagree with the rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of the current application, applicants have amended independent Claims 11 and 15 as presented herewith. At a minimum, applicants submit that Cai et al. fails to teach, disclose, or suggest "a multiplexer device . . . configured to switch packets of compressed data . . . among several virtual lines constituted by connections in multiplexed or non-multiplexed mode, wherein data from the originating terminal transmitted on the at least one standard-bit-rate artery is multiplexed with data from another originating terminal onto the at least one low-bit-rate artery," as claimed in Claim 11.

Applicants further submit that Cai et al. fails to teach, disclose, or suggest "an adaptation unit . . . configured to extract the packets from the basic transmission units, extract the data from the packets, and decompress the data in order to recreate the data from the originating terminal," as claimed in Claim 11.

Similarly, Cai et al. fails to teach, disclose, or suggest the elements of Claim 15, including "a multiplexer device . . . configured to switch packets of compressed data . . . among several virtual lines constituted by connections in multiplexed or non-multiplexed mode, wherein data from an originating terminal transmitted on the one or more standard-bit-rate arteries is multiplexed with data from another originating terminal onto the one or more low-bit-rate arteries" and "a device associated with a terminating terminal, wherein the device is configured to extract the packets from the basic transmission units, extract the data from the packets, and decompress the data in order to recreate data from the originating terminal."

Because Claims 11 and 15 recite elements not found in Cai et al., Claims 11 and 15 are submitted to be allowable over Cai et al. Furthermore, because Claims 16 and 17 depend from Claim 15, Claims 16 and 17 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 15.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cai et al. as applied to Claims 11 and 15 and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2006/0133386, issued to McCormack et al. Applicants respectfully disagree. For at least their dependence from allowable Claims 11 and 15, Claims 20 and 21 are submitted to be in allowable condition, since McCormack et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Cai et al. as discussed above in regard to Claims 11 and 15.

Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cai et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,488, issued to Beshai et al. Applicants respectfully disagree. Because Claims 12-14 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 11, which is submitted to be allowable, Claims 12-14 are also submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as Claim 11. Beshai et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Cai et al. as discussed above in regard to Claim 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

As noted earlier, applicants thank Examiner Ahmed for allowing Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 18, and 19. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18, and 19 have been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter. Because Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 18, and 19, as amended, recite the allowable subject matter, Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 18, and 19 remain in condition for allowance.

New Claims 22, 23, and 24

New Claims 22, 23, and 24 have been added in the present amendment. Because Claims 22, 23, and 24 recite subject matter that is not taught or suggested by the cited references, Claims 22, 23, and 24 are submitted to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims pending in this application are in allowable condition. Consequently, early and favorable action passing this application to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any remaining questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned counsel at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevan L. Morgan", is written over the printed name.

Kevan L. Morgan
Registration No. 42,015
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1712